

B Grade: Round 2*That the West should lift all sanctions on Zimbabwe*Sanctions:

From time to time countries will impose sanctions against other countries or individuals in those countries. Sanctions against other countries often involve restricting the trade of certain products, sharing certain information or expertise, or allowing citizens of that country to travel. Sanctions against individuals will often restrict where they can travel, as well as the ability of banks and businesses to enter transactions with them. Countries will usually implement sanctions either as part of their own foreign policy, or because they have been authorised by the United Nations Security Council.

The aim of sanctions can vary from country to country. Sometimes sanctions seek to limit the ability of a country to carry out bad behaviour such as attempting to develop nuclear weapons or waging war against another country (e.g. sanctions against North Korea or Russia). Other times sanctions try to change the behaviour of other countries, particularly if they are carrying out human rights abuses against their people. Finally, sanctions can also be used as a punishment. In each case, restricting access to certain goods or services is designed to either directly pressure governments, or motivate the people in those countries to place pressure on their government for reform.

However, sanctions are not always successful. Sanctions against individuals may be ineffective at changing their behaviour or may even lead to worse behaviour if they decide to retaliate. Sanctions against a country may impact everyday people who have little or no say over how their country is run. As such, it can be difficult for sanctions to effectively bring about change in many circumstances.

Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe achieved independence from the United Kingdom in 1980 and was ruled by Robert Mugabe until he was ousted by the military in November 2017. Mugabe's rule led to the violation of many human rights, as well as widespread economic collapse in a country which was once among Africa's most wealthy. Australia imposed sanctions against Mugabe, members of the government and certain military leaders in 2002 which limit their travel and any financial dealings with Australia. There are also Australian sanctions which limit arms sales to Zimbabwe. Other countries including Canada, the US and the UK (as well as the European Union) also maintain similar sanctions against Zimbabwe. While Mugabe is no longer the leader of Zimbabwe, it is unclear how likely it is that Zimbabwe will transition back to democracy

This debate allows teams to consider if sanctions are still appropriate to the circumstances in Zimbabwe, as well as broader questions about when (if ever) it is appropriate to use sanctions.

Some questions to consider:

- Sovereignty is the idea that individual countries should be able to operate without the interference of other countries. Do sanctions violate sovereignty? Is it ever okay to violate sovereignty?
- When should countries use sanctions? Should they use them in response to human rights abuses?

- Where else does the West use sanctions? Are sanctions against Zimbabwe consistent with this? Are they hypocritical?
- What human rights have been violated in Zimbabwe? Does the West have a moral duty to intervene?
- Who governs Zimbabwe now? How are they different/similar to Mugabe?
- Are sanctions more or less likely to pressure the government to reform? Should we actually be considering additional sanctions?
- Can we incentivise Zimbabwe to change through other mechanisms?

Some articles to consider:

- <http://dfat.gov.au/international-relations/security/sanctions/sanctions-regimes/Pages/sanctions-regimes.aspx>
- <https://www.herald.co.zw/eu-keen-to-lift-sanctions-on-zim/>
- <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/02/mnangagwa-placed-us-sanctions/>
- <https://www.economist.com/news/middle-east-and-africa/21731862-he-will-surely-be-less-awful-steward-economy-he-hardly?zid=304&ah=e5690753dc78ce91909083042ad12e30>
- <https://theconversation.com/explainer-do-sanctions-work-24431>